First Cohort of PA Program Students Arrives on Campus

On January 7th, TUSM’s new Physician Assistant Program welcomed its first class to campus for an intense 4-day “Boot Camp” introduction to the university and the PA profession. According to program director Richard Murphy, the 24 women and 6 men came to TUSM from as far away as California and as near as Tufts Medical Center. Ranging in age from 22 to 41, their clinical backgrounds span a wide spectrum from emergency medical technician to neuroscience researcher (see additional statistics at left).

The PA Program is the first new program at TUSM to include a clinical training component since the founding of the MD Program in 1893, and is also its first foray into interprofessional education. “The new students have already received an exceedingly warm reception by the Tufts community, including other students, administration, faculty and staff,” says Murphy. “The university has opened its educational resources to the new program to provide the academic support needed by the students.”

Sackler School Launches New Masters Program in Pharmacology and Drug Development

Designed to address the growing need for trainees with advanced skills in clinical pharmacology and drug development, this two-year program combines strong course work and laboratory research. The program is geared towards individuals already working in the pharmaceutical industry who wish to acquire new skills that will facilitate advancement, and towards international students who seek to explore training opportunities in the United States. Applications are now being accepted for September 2013 admission. Additional information about the program is available here: http://sackler.tufts.edu/Academics/Degree-Programs/MS-Programs/Pharmacology-and-Drug-Development-Microsite.

Welcome New Faculty

On July 1st the Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology welcomed two new assistant professors. Bree Aldridge, PhD, comes to TUSM from the Harvard School of Public Health, where she completed her postdoctoral training. Her research focuses on identifying determinants of mycobacterial tolerance to antibiotic stress. Wai-Leung Ng, PhD, completed his postdoctoral training at Princeton University. His research involves the analysis of a cell-to-cell communication process in bacteria called Quorum Sensing (QS).
Organizational Changes

Former Vice Provost [Peggy Newell](#) assumed the role of Deputy Provost at Harvard University in November 2012. Peggy served as Associate Dean of the Sackler School and as Associate Dean for Special Programs at the School of Medicine before joining the Provost’s Office in 1998 as Associate Provost for Research. There she created the University’s first office of proposal development and its first office of technology licensing and industry collaboration. She was appointed to Vice Provost in 2004.

In November 2012, Tufts Medical Center named accomplished health care executive [Craig Williams](#) as its new Chief Operating Officer. He has served as the COO of the Tufts Medical Center Physicians Organization (PO) since January 2011, and will continue to fulfill the responsibilities of that role. The goal of the creation of the joint COO position for the two organizations is to further strengthen the connection between the Medical Center and its physicians.

Continuing Medical Education Program Achieves Accreditation with Commendation Status

The Office of Continuing Education (OCE) at TUSM was granted Accreditation with Commendation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), its highest level of recognition for a CME provider. This special recognition extends the OCE’s accreditation term as a provider of continuing medical education from four years to six years. Of the nearly 700 providers accredited by the ACCME, only approximately 20% have achieved Accreditation with Commendation.

“This designation is particularly gratifying as a testament to the expert oversight, guidance and support of the Continuing Education Advisory Committee, chaired by Deeb Salem, MD; the hard work of the staff; and the commitment of Tufts faculty to the improvement of patient care and health care quality in all of our CME activities,” says Rosalie Phillips, OCE Director, and Co-Director of Tufts Health Care Institute (THCI).

In order to receive Accreditation with Commendation, the OCE not only met all of ACCME’s criteria to achieve full accreditation, but also demonstrated its track record as “a strategic partner in quality initiatives” with health care providers within the Tufts community and beyond to improve health care, patient outcomes, and physician practice.

News of Note

- **Paul Hattis**, MD, JD, MPH, Senior Associate Director of the Masters of Public Health Program and faculty member of the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine has been appointed to the board of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission.

- **Flavia Perea**, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine was named one of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* Magazine’s 2013 Emerging Scholars. *Diverse* profiles 12 “under 40” scholars from around the country. Each scholar is selected based on research, educational background, publishing record, teaching record, and competitiveness and uniqueness of field of study.

- **Beth Rosenberg**, MPH, ScD, Public Health and Community Medicine faculty member, was nominated by President Obama to serve as a board member of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board and confirmed by the US Senate on January 1, 2013.

- **Naomi Rosenberg**, PhD, Dean of the Sackler School, has been selected as the Chair Elect of the AAMC Graduate Research Education and Training group, the AAMC organization that supports development and fosters innovation in PhD, MD/PhD, and postdoctoral training.

- **Ana Soto**, MD, and **Carlos Sonnenschein**, MD, Professors of Anatomy and Cellular Biology, are recipients of the Jacob Heskel Gabbay Award in basic and applied biomedical sciences for their work in researching and identifying the effects of BPA in plastics on mammalian cells. The Gabbay Award in Biotechnology and Medicine is given to scientists in academia, medicine, or industry whose work had outstanding scientific content and significant practical consequences in the biomedical sciences.